

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the subject application. Claims 7-9 are herein amended, claims 10-13 are herein cancelled and new claims 14-17 are herein added. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 14-17 are herewith presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 7-9 have been amended to correct typographical errors therein. Specifically, the alphabetical identifications of sodium nitrite, sodium hydroxide and ammonium chloride recited in the claims have been corrected to correspond to the ratio designations as presented.

Claims 1-13 have been subjected to restriction by the Examiner in a Restriction Requirement mailed January 25, 2005.

Concurrently herewith Applicants have responded to the Restriction Requirement, electing claims 1-9 for prosecution.

By the present preliminary amendment, Applicants have cancelled the non-elected claims 10-13.

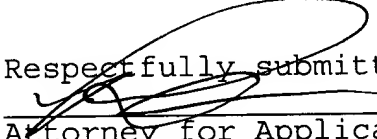
In addition, new claims 14-17 are presented herein and correspond to the limitations of the non-elected claims 10-13, rewritten so as to be dependent from the elected process of claim 1. As such, new claims 14-17 present a sub-process that is part of the process of claim 1 and are fully supported by the

specification as filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments and that the application is in condition for allowance.

An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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